

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009791
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 /016 R

DRAFTED BY AF/I:LGSHTURLEFF:PCS

APPROVED BY AF:LWALKER

AF/C:RMARCUS

HA/HR:RMAXIM

AF/I:WHLEWIS

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R 131645Z JAN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009791

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CM

SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ENQUIRIES

REFERENCE: YAOUNDE 0110 AND AF/I MEMO OF 12-15-78

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH THE THRUST OF EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL FOR HANDLING INQUIRIES FROM AI OR OTHER PRIVATE GROUPS SEEKING INFORMATION ON ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. YOU WERE CORRECT IN RAISING ISSUE IN LOW-KEY MANNER WITH RANKING GURC OFFICIALS WHILE AT SAME TIME AVOIDING ACTING AS AI'S INVESTIGATORY AGENT. IN FUTURE, CAN ONLY SUGGEST THAT YOU MIGHT, IN YOUR CONTACTS WITH CAMEROONIAN OFFICIALS, SPECIFICALLY SUGGEST THAT IT IS CAMEROON'S OWN BEST INTEREST TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES FROM RESPECTED GROUPS SUCH AS AI.

2. WITH REGARD TO YOUR PROPOSED RESPONSE TO AI, SUGGEST FOLLOWING MODEST CHANGES IN DRAFT CONTAINED REFTEL:

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A) MAKE MENTION OF THE FACT THAT EMBASSY HAS RAISED AI INQUIRY WITH APPROPRIATE GURC OFFICIALS, AND HAS SUGGESTED THEY RESPOND DIRECTLY TO AI; B) DELETE SUGGESTION THAT AI CONTACT UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OR CAMEROONIAN AI CHAPTER AS POSSIBLY GRATUITOUS.

3. WITH REGARD TO INQUIRIES YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM AI,

DEPARTMENT CONTACTED US AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HEAD-
QUARTERS IN WASHINGTON TO SEEK CLARIFICATION. AI STAFFERS
WERE UNAWARE OF COMMUNICATIONS YOU HAVE RECEIVED, BUT
DEDUCE THAT THESE PROBABLY CAME FROM LOCAL US AI CHAPTERS.
AI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR YOUR ACTION IN BRINGING
AI CHAPTER INQUIRIES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GURC.

4. RE YOUR QUESTION ON AF/I MEMO: THIS IS PART OF A
SERIES OF MEMOS ROUTINELY SENT TO AF POST BY BUREAU
HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER. THESE ARE INTENDED TO KEEP
POSTS UP-TO-DATE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION PUBLICA-
TIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND CONDITIONS IN AFRICA AND
TO ELICIT POST EVALUATION OF THE ACCURACY OF SUCH REPORTS.
WE DO NOT EXPECT POSTS TO MAKE EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATIONS
OF THE ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN THESE REPORTS, BUT WE DO
WANT POSTS TO BE AWARE THAT SUCH ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN
MADE, ARE WIDELY CIRCULATED IN USG--INCLUDING IN CONGRESS-
-AND CAN HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE COUNTRY'S HUMAN
RIGHTS IMAGE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE009791
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LGSHURTLEFF:PCS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780020-1079
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780165/aaaaccmv.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 1a20fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 YAOUNDE 110
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3776790
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ENQUIRIES
TAGS: SHUM, CM
To: YAOUNDE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a20fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014